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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Second Occurrence of Wilson Plover in California.—While strolling on the ocean shore at Imperial Beach, San Diego, County, California, May 11, 1918, examining with the aid of glasses various waders, I discovered a Wilson Plover (*Ochthodromus wilsonius wilsonius*) and three Snowy Plovers engaged in feeding along the wave-swept beach. They all took flight, circled around over the breakers and settled on the wet sand at the edge of the water. The Wilson Plover permitted me to approach to within some fifty feet, then running rapidly would catch up with its more timid companions which had earlier moved out of possible danger. Similar acts were repeated a number of times; it then took the lead, uttered a few notes and flew in the direction of the original feeding place. On disappearing from sight, I retraced my steps nearly a quarter of a mile, and there, not a hundred feet from where they first flew, on a dry portion of the beach, the Wilson was seen standing on the sand-drift. Its associates were close by. Two of them claimed ownership to a set of three eggs; the other appeared greatly disturbed when I examined a shell-lined hollow in the sand. Suspecting that the Wilson might have a brooding mate, I withdrew to watch from a distance, but as I did so, the bird gradually approached nearer. When I stopped, it would also stop and remain motionless. If I advanced too near, it would retreat, keeping the distance between us at all times the same or about so. This peculiar action was too trying for me, so I decided to give up temporarily the hunt for its nest.

On June 16, I searched the beach carefully without seeing a bird of this species. All further attempts to locate this Wilson Plover were frustrated by the U. S. Government; for on my next visit to this locality, the beach and the road leading to it were placarded with large wooden signs, reading "Danger: U. S. Aerial Gunnery Range."

So far as I can learn, this is the only Wilson Plover seen in the state since the species was added to the list of the birds of California through the record of a male taken by myself at Pacific Beach, June 29, 1894 (Nidologist, 11, May, 1895, p. 87).—A. M. INGER-SOLL, *San Diego, California, August 4, 1918.*

Heermann Gull With White Primary Coverts.—Mr. Willett's note regarding the occurrence of white primary coverts in *Larus heermanni* (CONDOR, xx, May, 1918, p. 122), suggests the advisability of recording a similar specimen in the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada. This bird is a female in worn changing plumage, probably just coming into maturity, taken August 14, 1917, at Alert Bay, B. C., off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island. Four outer primary coverts on one wing and two on the other are pure white. The dissimilarity is probably due to molt. Of a hundred or more gulls of this species observed at the same time and during several successive days this was the only one noted that showed these conspicuous white wrists in flight, and it was collected on that account. It is difficult to offer a satisfactory explanation to this sporadically (?) recurring variation.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Museum Geological Survey, Ottawa, Ontario, August 10, 1918.*

Pacific Coast Records of the European Widgeon.—Fifty years ago Dr. J. G. Cooper published the first note on the presence of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) on the Pacific Coast. Since then, reports of the capture of this species have appeared from time to time, the most recent being that of Mailliard in THE CONDOR for last May, relative to specimens secured in 1908 and 1917. The records of the occurrence of the European Widgeon in America now number more than a hundred, of which nearly twenty percent are based on specimens taken on the Pacific Coast. The Alaska and British Columbia records have been published several times and need not be repeated here. The Washington records are all recent and are due to the energy of Bowles and Warburton who have reported one record for each winter since 1915. So far as I am aware Oregon is not yet represented by any notes on this species. The California list includes at least eleven records, representing a dozen or more specimens and is exceeded only by that of North Carolina. Most of the California records are mentioned in Grinnell, Bryant and Storer's "Game Birds of California" (in press), but the data of the California and Washington

specimens are not to be found in any one place and therefore it may be convenient to recapitulate them all briefly in the order in which the birds were collected.

CALIFORNIA

- (1) 1868. San Francisco market. Several specimens. Cooper, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., iv, 1868, p. 9.
- (2) 1882, February 17. San Francisco market. Specimen no. 542 in the Bryant collection. W. E. Bryant, Forest and Stream, xxvi, June 24, 1886, p. 426.
- (3) 1884, winter. Eureka, Humboldt County. Specimen shot by Charles Fiebig and now in the Eureka Public Library. Townsend, Auk, iii, 1886, p. 491; Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., x, 1887, p. 184.
- (4) 1884. Rio Vista, Solano County. Two specimens [in collection of F. H. Holmes, obtained in San Francisco market January 25 and February, 1884]. Belding MS, quoted by Grinnell, Pac. Coast Avifauna, no. 11, 1915, p. 33.
- (5) 1890, November 24. San Francisco Bay. Specimen no. 124,776, U. S. Nat. Museum, collected by C. H. Townsend.
- (6) 1904, February 16. Bixby, Los Angeles County. Specimen shot by C. H. Mears on the Pasadena Duck Club preserve and formerly owned by Joseph Welsh of Pasadena. Now in the Grinnell collection. Grinnell, Auk, xxi, 1904, p. 383.
- (7) 1905, February 5. Bixby, Los Angeles County. Specimen shot by Robert Erskine Ross on the same marsh in which the Welsh specimen was obtained. Ross, Forest and Stream, lxiv, Feb. 25, 1905, p. 153.
- (8) 1905? Eureka. Specimen in collection of Dr. F. H. Ottmer of Eureka. F. J. Smith MS, quoted by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer, "Game Birds Calif". (in press), p. 112.
- (9) 1908, December 5. Merced County. Specimen in California Academy of Sciences, collected by Rollo H. Beck. Jos. Mailliard, Condor, xx, May, 1918, p. 122.
- (10) 1911, October 20. Arcata Bay, Humboldt County. Specimen shot by Alden Trott. F. J. Smith MS, quoted by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer, "Game Birds Calif". (in press), p. 112.
- (11) 1917, December 19. Norman, Glenn County. Specimen belonging to the Zindo Gun Club, shot by Samuel Pond of San Francisco, and now in the office of Drs. C. H. Bell and E. Pitres of that city. Jos. Mailliard, Condor, xx, May, 1918, p. 122.

WASHINGTON

- (1) 1915, January 12. Nisqually Flats, Thurston County. Specimen shot by L. W. Brehm of Tacoma. Bowles, Condor, xvii, Mar., 1915, p. 102; *ibid.*, xviii, May, 1916, p. 129.
- (2) 1916, January 15. Nisqually Flats. Specimen shot by Mr. Ditz of South Tacoma and now in the Bowles collection, Tacoma. Bowles, Condor, xviii, May, 1916, p. 129.
- (3) 1917, March 31. Nisqually Flats. Specimen collected by Stanton Warburton, Jr., and now in the Warburton collection, Tacoma. Warburton, Condor, xix, July, 1917, p. 142.
- (4) 1918, January 13. Nisqually Flats. Two adult males brought in to Edwards Bros. of Tacoma for mounting. Bowles, Condor, xx, Mar., 1918, p. 93.

The California records include three birds from Humboldt Bay, three from San Francisco Bay, two from Bixby, Los Angeles County, and one each from three interior localities: Merced County; Rio Vista, Solano County; and Norman, Glenn County. So far as shown by the dates which have been recorded, the birds were shot during the four months from October 20 to February 17. Several of them are now preserved in public museums: The Bryant specimen should be in the Oakland Museum, the Fiebig specimen is in the Public Library at Eureka, the Townsend specimen is in the National Museum, and the Beck specimen in the museum of the California Academy of Sciences.

The five Washington specimens were all obtained on the Nisqually Flats, near Olympia, and were collected between January 12 and March 31. At least two are in the collection of J. H. Bowles and one is in that of Stanton Warburton, Jr.

All the birds enumerated in the above lists were males. The difficulty of distinguishing the females of *Mareca penelope* and *Mareca americana* probably explains why more females of the former species are not recognized in the field and saved. Cooperation on the part of sportsmen will doubtless bring to light other specimens and show that the European Widgeon occurs more frequently than is generally supposed. So far as practicable the present location of all recorded specimens should be ascertained and as many as possible of them should be placed in public museums where they may be properly and permanently preserved.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C., June 2, 1918.*

An Albino Magpie.—An Albino Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) was observed by the writer near the Teton River, a few miles above Collins, Montana, on July 20, 1918. It was associated with others of its species, and flew across the road, in front of me, to alight on a fence post where it sat "singing" the characteristic magpie notes. It was entirely of a grayish-white, or very pale gray color, and did not exhibit any definite markings so far as I was able to discern.—A. D. Du Bois, *Dutton, Montana, August 12, 1918.*

New Records for Some of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California.—Through the courtesy of the State Fish and Game Commission of California an expedition from the California Academy of Sciences was given the privilege of transportation, and when necessary, even accommodation, on the new launch "Albacore" during a recent patrolling and fishery investigating trip to some of the islands off our southern coast. Captain Nidever and his crew did all in their power to make the trip a successful one and to ensure the welfare of his temporary passengers, and hearty thanks are hereby accorded to the Commission and its able assistants for the kindness and courtesy shown to each member of the party.

Under the leadership of Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Director of the Museum of the California Academy of Science, the party consisted of the following besides himself: Dr. John Van Denburgh, herpetology and oology; Joseph R. Slevin, herpetology; Joseph Mailliard, ornithology. Dr. Evermann was interested in botany and oology on this particular trip. On its way to the starting point the party was joined at Los Angeles by J. Eugene Law, who was interested in herpetology and ornithology. Santa Catalina, San Clemente, San Nicolas and Santa Barbara islands were visited, though but a few hours stay was made on any but San Clemente, where several days were passed at different points, Wilson's Cove being the first landing made, on March 23, and which proved the most prolific of results of any point visited. The oological part of the trip was a distinct disappointment, but the other departments were very successful and many specimens were secured.

According to the lists in Howell's "Birds of the Islands Off the Coast of Southern California" (Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 12), the following are new records for the islands named.

On San Clemente Island Dr. Evermann was positive that he saw several Cactus Wrens (*Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*), and he shot at one at quite long range with a collecting pistol, but failed to secure it. We were lying at Wilson's Cove on March 24, and started collecting early in the morning on the ridge above the sheep corrals. Dr. Evermann at one time came over the top of a hill that separated us at the moment and called to me that there were some Cactus Wrens up there. I went to the top of the ridge as fast as possible and for some distance chased what I supposed were a pair of these birds but did not succeed in approaching within shooting distance, or even near enough for positive identification, before they disappeared. The next day Dr. Evermann saw several near the same spot, shooting at one with the pistol as above mentioned, but none of the rest of the party came across any of the birds nor were any signs of nests discovered in the cactus. There have been no records of this species from any of the islands, and it is unfortunate that no specimen was secured on this occasion, but it is hardly possible that any one with as much ornithological experience as Dr. Evermann could have been mistaken under such circumstances as he related.

On Santa Barbara Island, visited March 29, the Audubon Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni auduboni*) was seen by several of the party at very close range, it being quite tame around the house of the keeper of the island. Though no specimens were taken there was no possible doubt as to its identity. A Junco was seen by myself but not secured, probably *Junco oreganus thurberi*; and a Dusky Warbler (*Vermivora celata sordida*) was noted by both Dr. Van Denburgh and myself, but was not shot as it was impossible to retrieve it among the thick cactus where seen, and from which it did not seem to care to be separated. It was my good fortune to secure a Western Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina arizonae*) and a Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*), neither of which had been recorded from this island. It happened that several small sparrows popped up out of a small heap of dead ice plant near me and stopped for a moment on top of it, long enough for a snap shot. Two of these were secured and proved to be the Western Chipping and Lincoln sparrows. No others of these species were identified.

On Santa Catalina Island, March 30, a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

was noted in Holland's Cove, swimming around our launch, and ashore at the same place a flock of Arkansas Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*), of half a dozen individuals, lit on a telephone wire near me and one was secured for the record. One or two others were noted as well in that vicinity.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California, May 6, 1918.*

Extension of Known Distribution in Some Northern California Birds.—In company with Mr. W. C. Jacobsen, State Superintendent of Rodent Control under the Horticultural Commission of California, the undersigned was privileged to cover several of the northern counties of the state in rapid reconnaissance during the latter part of May, 1918. With previously known facts of bird distribution in the region traversed pretty well in mind it was possible to recognize any occurrence of species beyond their previously recorded limits. The more important cases of this sort were as follows:

Sayornis nigricans. Black Phoebe. On May 13 a pair was seen under a bridge across the Trinity River near Lowden; another pair was seen May 14 near and under a smaller wooden bridge at Hayfork; and a third pair the same day near a bridge over the East Fork of the Trinity River, at Minersville. In the second instance one of the birds was carrying nesting material. All three localities are in Trinity County; all possess a number of species of plants and animals usually found in the Upper Sonoran Zone, but in each place the bulk of the fauna and flora appeared to be Transition.

Aphelocoma californica immanis. Long-tailed Jay. Seen almost continuously on May 18 through the Upper Sonoran Zone in Modoc County, from Cornell on the east side of Tule Lake, to a point some seven miles southeast of Straw, and again along the escarpment between Canby and Alturas. In Lassen County the same day this jay was encountered near Madeline, near the shores of Horse Lake, and in the valley of Susan Creek five miles northeast of Susanville. In all these localities the Long-tailed Jay was closely associated with the juniper belt.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus. Pinyon Jay. A large straggling flock seen among the junipers near Straw, Modoc County, May 18.

Chondestes grammacus strigatus. Western Lark Sparrow. Noted at Weaverville and Hayfork, Trinity County; near Gazelle, in Shasta Valley, Siskiyou County; and seven miles southwest of Macdoel, in Butte Valley, Siskiyou County; as also at many points within the more commonly known range of the species. This bird is one of the frontier species of the Upper Sonoran Zone, in the direction of Transition.

Amphispiza belli belli. Bell Sparrow. Numbers noted in full song May 13 in the plant association characterized by the dominance of the chemissal (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) on the south and southwest facing slopes towards the head of Sawpit Gulch, 3000 to 3500 feet altitude, on Shasta County side of divide between Redding and Weaverville (see Weaverville quadrangle, U. S. G. S.). The occurrence seemed to be perfectly normal and indicates the existence of this Upper Sonoran sparrow doubtless as a permanently resident species around the extreme head of the Sacramento Valley. The northernmost previous record-station for the Bell Sparrow is Rumsey, Yolo County (see Pacific Coast Avif. no. 11, 1915, p. 121).

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus. Western Mockingbird. Three individuals observed along the state highway in the suburbs of Corning, Tehama County, on May 20. This is exactly as might have been expected, since Corning is well within the Lower Sonoran life-zone, though near the northern limits of it in California. The extension of orchards of olive and citrus trees in that neighborhood is likely to favor the further spread of the Mockingbird. (See Auk, xxxviii, 1911, pp. 293-300.)—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, July 1, 1918.*

Long Waits for Sets of Winter Wrens.—On April 18, 1908, a nest of Western Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pacificus*) was found in a small huckleberry bush, ready for the inner lining of feathers. On May 24 it contained six fresh eggs. On May 7, 1916, by watching the bird carrying nesting material, another nest was found among the roots of a fallen tree. When next examined, May 21, it was ready for the inner lining, on May 28 it was in the same condition, and on June 3 it contained one egg and not a bit of lining. On June 11 it was thickly lined with small feathers, and contained six eggs.—JOHN M. DAVIS, *Eureka, California, February 4, 1918.*

Large Set of Eggs of the Western Red-tailed Hawk.—I received a letter a short time ago from a former club member, Mr. O. F. Beekman of Wasco, Kern County, relative to the finding of an abnormally large set of *Buteo borealis calurus* which I thought might be of interest to CONDOR readers. The nest was found April 14, 25 feet up in a large cottonwood tree and contained two newly hatched young, two pipped eggs, and two eggs far advanced in incubation. I have heard of a number of sets of five eggs, but this is the first one of six.—LAURENCE PEYTON, *Fillmore, California, May 28, 1918.*

Supposed New Record for Central Kansas.—On June 10, 1918, while collecting near Solomon, in eastern Saline County, Kansas, I found a nest containing three eggs of the Painted Bunting (*Cyanospiza ciris*). I have spent several years collecting in this part of Kansas and have never noted the bird here before although I am quite familiar with the species, having collected it near Bartlesville in northern Oklahoma. Upon finding this nest I knew that I had made an important record, so returned three days later and collected the set and the female bird. The male was not seen. The eggs were highly incubated at this time. The identification is made certain by the fact that the female is distinctively colored on the back, a bright greenish olive, and because the eggs are well spotted, all the other species of buntings laying plain unspotted eggs.

Mr. A. K. Boyles, a taxidermist of Salina, Kansas, only a few miles west of here, stated to me that he had never known of the occurrence of this species in central Kansas. He is also familiar with the bird, having noted it in northern Oklahoma. Extreme southern Kansas (Barber and Comanche counties) seems to be the northernmost previously recorded locality (Goss, Bds. Kansas, 1891, p. 492).—A. J. KIRN, *Solomon, Kansas, July 20, 1918.*

Bird Notes from Admiralty Island, Southeastern Alaska.—The last winter has been a hard one in this section. It was all winter weather since last Thanksgiving, with snow ten feet deep the end of March. This was by far the worst winter I have ever seen here, and I believe that ninety percent of the deer will have died. In regard to recent papers in THE CONDOR about the migration of horned owls to the Puget Sound region, here too they have been numerous. The rabbits all died in the interior last year (1916), and the lynx and owls have all been moving to the coast during the last two years. They have almost cleaned up the grouse and ptarmigan, and the lynx are now doing well on mallards, etc. Last fall I shot three Bubos around the house, and a visitor shot one that had just killed a mink. An acquaintance, a reliable man, was trapping around Icy Point last fall and winter, and he says that he killed more than twenty owls with clubs or by throwing his trapping hatchet at them. He saw a great many more, some of them sitting around and hooting in broad daylight. One that he killed was eating a loon, not dead yet, one was eating a gull alive, one was eating a squirrel, one was eating another owl which was not dead yet, and one was eating a mink. Mink are very scarce, supposed to have been killed off by the owls. He found an eagle eating an owl, and I, myself, saw near a deer carcass signs that an eagle, presumably, had killed and eaten a white owl. I killed a very large Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in January at Mole Harbor, Admiralty Island. He had been trying to catch a duck until it was so wet and weak that I ran it down on the flats. The owls all left Mole Harbor when the snow began to pile up in December. There is a territorial bounty of fifty cents on eagles, and over three thousand have been killed. The Alaska Council of National Defence is striving to have bounties placed on bears and all sea birds.—ALLEN E. HASSELBORG, *Juneau, Alaska, March 29, 1918.*

A Late Nest of the Swainson Hawk.—A nest of *Buteo swainsoni*, examined by the writer on the 12th of July, 1918, was found to contain two eggs which were apparently fresh. The bird was incubating. The eggs were entirely unmarked. A subsequent visit on July 20 disclosed only an empty nest, with no hawks in sight. The eggs were probably destroyed by men who had been at work in an adjacent field. The nest was well up toward the top of a cotton-wood tree on the bank of the Teton River, beside a ford. I first discovered it on July 7, when the bird was upon it, but I did not then climb up to examine it.

This is much the latest nesting date that has come to my attention. Incubation is usually begun in this locality (southeastern Teton County, Montana) during the last

week of May or first part of June. Since this species is known to construct a new nest, if deprived of its first eggs, the present nest is doubtless a case of that kind. My notes show that Swainson Hawks were seen at this place on May 13, one of them soaring high above the river with nesting material in its talons.—A. D. Du Bois, *Dutton, Montana, August 12, 1918.*

Notes from Southern California.—Franklin Gull (*Larus franklini*). A fourth record of this bird comes from the same locality as the three specimens taken by Mr. J. E. Law (CONDOR, XVII, 1915, p. 96). This gull was taken by myself on October 29, 1917, from a great flock of Bonaparte, Western, California, Ring-bill and Herring gulls, feeding on the sewage where it discharges into the ocean at Hyperion, Los Angeles County. In plumage it is the same as the birds taken by Mr. Law, an immature, probably of the year.

European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*). On December 12, 1917, a clerk in one of the large public markets of Los Angeles called my attention to a pair of fine "Red-heads" exposed for sale along with numerous other ducks of various species on his counter. A quick sale followed, the birds proving to be of the above species. Both were in perfect adult plumage, marred only by absence of under tail-coverts, which had been stripped off in removing the entrails. The proprietor stated they had been shipped to him from Brawley, Imperial County.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). The passing of famed Nigger Slough, as a result of drainage work begun in 1916, removes the last considerable area of breeding-ground for fresh-water birds in southern California. The reduction of formerly extensive deep-water areas to wide stretches of oozy mud, partly covered by a thin sheet of water, appears to have coincided with an unusual visitation of Red Phalaropes to this locality. This species was first noted on the beach southwest of Los Angeles, May 23, 1915, where several birds were taken and quite a number seen, at very close range, feeding about the cast-up kelp. On the 27th, several were noted at Nigger Slough, in company with thousands of the Northern Phalarope. Frequent inspection of the slough during the following week showed considerable numbers of the Red species, in every stage of plumage from the gray winter to full breeding garb, but a rapid decrease of the Northern. Both were practically gone on June 8.

Birds taken on the beach were greatly emaciated, while those taken at the slough were generally in good flesh, some of them fat, and all approaching breeding condition.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California, June 15, 1918.*

When the Thrushes Cease from Singing.—In the California springtime we hear the sweet-toned ringing of the thrushes' song, that of the Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) for the most part, and of other varieties as well, in some restricted parts. We instinctively note the first of these seasonal outbursts of joy, but how many of us take note of when they cease?

At first adding to our enjoyment of blossoming nature we soon become accustomed to the amorous outpourings of our avian friends and calmly take them for granted as a pleasing part of the fresh spring atmosphere, so that when they cease it takes us some time to awaken to the fact. Many times have I resolved to keep careful watch for the moment when these ringing notes would no longer be heard, and yet the season went by with this unnoticed.

This summer, however, I have had exceptional opportunity to take note of what happened as regards two species of thrushes. Going to the Bohemian Grove, on the Russian River about ten miles above its mouth, in Sonoma County, California, upon July 6 (1918), I found that in the darker and less disturbed part of the grove—where my own camp is situated—the Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata slevini*) was quite abundant, frequenting the lowest hillsides and occasionally appearing on the floor of the canyon, and in full song. During the many previous years of my camping there, but an occasional note had been heard, while no individual had been actually identified. This difference in habits was probably due to the extreme dryness of the nearly rainless winter and spring, with water very scarce on the higher levels around the grove.

The attendance in Bohemia was very light this year on account of so many members of the club being either directly or indirectly connected with war service, and human neighbors seldom appeared; so that passing most of the time quietly in my camp offered unusual opportunity to note the bird-life round about. There were certainly more birds of various sorts in the grove than ever noted before.

On the morning of July 20 I was suddenly struck by the absence of song, and from that moment nothing further was heard from the Monterey Hermit Thrush save for an occasional call note, the softly whistled "kooit". One or two were later seen on the ground near my camp and were approached, as they were feeding about, to within ten feet, making identification certain beyond a doubt. Being fairly sure that their song was heard on July 19, and absolutely so as regards the 18th, I can state positively that the singing stopped abruptly on the evening of either the 18th or 19th of July in this locality, and this in spite of the fact that a few birds must have been nesting very late in the season, as evidenced by a female taken on July 7 with the yolk of an egg in the oviduct.

The song of the Russet-backed Thrush did not cease as abruptly as that of the other, but was continued in a desultory manner for a few days and gradually died away, becoming less and less pronounced until it ceased altogether.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California, August 9, 1918.*

A New Bird for Santa Catalina Island.—Howell in his "Birds of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California" (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 12, 1917), suggests that there has been relatively so little ornithological work done on these islands that a visit of several weeks to any one of them is almost sure to add one or two new migrants or winter visitants to the list. Proof of the statement is found in the fact that a stay of two days at Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, disclosed the presence of a bird hitherto unrecorded for any of the islands in the Santa Barbara Channel. The bird discovered, the Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), happens to be a summer visitant instead of a migrant or winter visitant. On June 12, 1918, I was on the south side of Descanso Canyon, just back of the new St. Catherine Hotel, getting better acquainted with a Dusky Warbler, when my attention was directed to a bird with conspicuous white patches on the wings, flying about some elderberry trees in the bottom of the canyon. Closer inspection disclosed a "Silky Flycatcher," and a moment later a second bird of the same species was seen. The graceful flight and the flycatcher habits left no possibility of mistaking the identity of the birds. The only other striking observations were regarding the tameness of Mourning Doves which fed within a few feet of the passersby; the common presence of the Mockingbird, heard everywhere; and the abundance of the Raven, five being seen in flight at one time.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California, July 1, 1918.*

Late Snowy Owl Dates.—In regard to the migrations of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) last winter (1917-18) it may be of interest to report some late dates on which the species was observed by the writer and Mr. D. E. Brown of Seattle. These owls were seen daily at Westport, Grays Harbor, Washington, during the week of April 8 to 14, 1918.

The first owl seen at this time was shown to us by Mr. H. A. Dusenbery, who stated that they had been in that vicinity all winter. The first owl collected was taken by Mr. Brown on April 9. It was a large female, quite fat and with a full stomach. The contents of the stomach consisted of duck feathers, but it was impossible to tell of which variety. Another Snowy Owl was collected by Mr. Wilmer Dusenbery on April 11. This bird, again a large female, had the entire foot, tarsus, and upper leg bone of an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) in its stomach.

Just previous to collecting this bird, Mr. Dusenbery had shot a few sandpipers, and the owl on seeing this had come over to get some. Its foot was within eighteen inches of one of the specimens when it was shot. Mr. Dusenbery said that this was of common occurrence when the owls were plentiful during the winter.—STANTON WARBURTON, JR., *Tacoma, Washington, May 17, 1918.*

The Virginia Warbler in California.—On August 1, 1917, Mr. Halsted G. White, while carrying on field collecting for the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, secured a specimen of the Virginia Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*) at 9200 feet altitude near McCloud Camp, on Cottonwood Creek, east flank of White Mountains, Mono County, California. The bird is in process of molt from juvenal to first annual plumage. There are many of the juvenal feathers still remaining about the head and on the belly, and, of course, the flight feathers belong to the juvenal plumage. The annual plumage is so nearly complete elsewhere as to exhibit plainly the characteristic markings of the species—yellow crissum, yellow rump, and yellow patch on chest. The specimen is no. 28593, Mus. Vert. Zool. The age of this bird, and general "geographic reasoning", makes it seem not unlikely to my mind that this warbler, now for the first time recorded from California, occurs regularly as a breeding species on the White Mountains.—J. GRINNELL, *Berkeley, California, August 25, 1918.*